

Draft Meeting Summary
Worker's Compensation Advisory Committee
Subcommittee on Health Care
November 13, 2002

Participants

Labor:	Jerri Wood (for Robby Stern), Owen Linch, Ed Wood, and John Aslakson
Business:	Clif Finch, Beverly Simmons, and Gerald Reilly
L&I:	Gary Franklin, Linda Murphy, Roy Plaeger-Brockway, Bob Mootz, and Diana Drylie
UW:	Tom Wickizer, Deb Fulton-Kehoe, and Terri Smith-Weller
Renton COHE:	Pat Vincent
Spokane COHE:	Tom Fritz, Judith Heusner, Dan Hansen, and Scott Graham
Guests:	Rick Blackmarr (from Renton B/L Board), and Sallie Reuter

Introductions and Minutes – Gary Franklin

All participants were introduced and the minutes from July 16, 2002 were approved.

Overview and Update – Gary Franklin

Gary Franklin congratulated all the teams involved in this project on their hard work and the progress made so far. Due to slower than expected implementation, Gary mentioned a possible need to extend the evaluation period of the project. Any decisions effecting the timeline or budget will be brought to future subcommittee meetings for discussion.

Research Team Reports – UW team

Deb Fulton-Kehoe presented data on the number of APPs involved in the project. She showed their performance on the early ROA quality indicator.

There are currently 70 APPs participating in the pilot. Of those, 15 are emergency room staff. The UW completed an analysis of the providers within the Renton area and identified a unique pattern. Unlike the statewide pattern, the Renton area has a high concentration of doctors who see a large number of workers' compensation patients. In order to provide services to the largest number of injured workers, the COHE will need to involve these high volume providers in the pilot. Based on these numbers, the COHE has revised their marketing strategy to focus on doctors who see many injured workers. This strategy will not preclude recruiting interested doctors who see few injured workers. By using this method, the UW anticipates that the COHE will be able to recruit enough providers to have a robust evaluation of the pilot.

The first quality indicator that the UW has begun to study is the early receipt of the ROA. The data indicates that the APPs are improving the median amount of time from date of treatment to L&I receipt of the ROA. In addition, APPs are getting 80% of their ROAs to L&I within fewer days than they did in the past. Data shows that even the high volume APPs are sending their ROAs to L&I more rapidly. Data that is collected at the UW will be provided to the COHE so that training and education efforts can be tailored to those APPs having difficulties with this, or any other, quality indicator.

In the next few months, the UW will begin to focus on measuring the other quality indicators, such as APP calls to employers, use of the Activity Prescription Form, and Completion of the Assessment of Impediments.

Tom Wickizer reported on further analysis of the worker satisfaction survey data. He is currently analyzing the data from the worker satisfaction survey that was conducted in the spring of 2000. His primary question is whether higher satisfaction correlates with better outcomes. He explained that he used a multiple regression model to control for time-loss status, injury type, age, and other factors. The preliminary analysis shows that those workers who are most satisfied with their care at 4 months had better outcomes. He will be completing further analysis on the data set. A subcommittee member asked if the data controlled for severity. Tom explained that he controlled for time-loss status as a surrogate for severity.

Delivery Team Reports – Renton COHE team and potential Spokane COHE team

Pat Vincent provided an update on the activities of the COHE since the last WCAC-HC meeting. This included the initial work on the new recruitment goals (see Research Team Reports discussion above) and interviews with all current APPs to discuss the requirements of the project and their experience to date with the COHE. In addition, the COHE has sent out a first round of worker satisfaction questionnaires. Some data will be available at a future meeting.

Jerri Wood and Beverly Simmons reported on the activity of the Renton Business and Labor Advisory Board. To date, the board has approved the by-laws, provided guidance on physician recruitment and community involvement, and begun development of a mission and vision statement. The board members demonstrated strong support of the COHE.

Diana Drylie reported that the Self-Insurance section at L&I has approved the participation fee structure that was presented at the last WCAC-HC meeting. The project team is currently finalizing the application for participation and billing processes. Once these are complete, the COHE(s) will be able to begin recruiting self-insured employers.

Several members of the potential COHE at Spokane introduced themselves. Scott Graham will be the Project Manager, Dr. Judith Heusner will be the COHE Medical Director, Dr. Dan Hansen will act as the Assistant Medical Director, and Tom Fritz represented St. Luke's Rehabilitation Institute Administration. All participants shared their enthusiasm with the project and their hopes for a speedy conclusion to contract negotiations. Diana Drylie reported that the UW team and L&I teams are reviewing the draft contract. If SLRI doesn't suggest changes to the approved contract, the contract will be ready for signatures. Labor commented that 5 potential members of the Business and Labor Advisory Board have been forwarded to the WCAC Parent Committee. Business has begun to identify 5 members for the board.

Next Meeting

May 7, 2003

Wednesday

1:00 – 4:00

Tukwila Service Location